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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KAZAMA, Toshio JCO/ RECD BY FAX 10 JAN 2001
Assignee: NHK Spring Co., Ltd.
Title: ELECTROCONDUCTIVE CONTACT UNIT ASSEMBLY
Serial No.: Unknown Filing Date: Herewith
Examiner: Unknown Group Art Unit: Unknown
Docket No.: AB-1101 US

San Jose, California
January 10, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please cancel Claims 1 through 7 and add the following new claims:

--8. An electroconductive contact unit assembly comprising an electroconductive contact unit in the form of a coil spring for resiliently contacting an object to be contacted, the contact unit being coaxially received in a through hole formed in an insulating support member, characterized by that:

the through hole is shaped so as to have a reduced diameter portion at least at one axial end thereof;

the contact unit in the form of a coil spring comprising a coil spring portion received in an intermediate part of the through hole and at least one electrode pin portion which is closely wound at one end of the coil spring portion and tapered or stepped in shape so as to be prevented from coming off by the reduced diameter portion;

only the closely wound portion of the contact unit being surface processed so as to form a layer of electroconductive material over an outer circumferential surface thereof in a continuous manner.

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